



One Hundred Eleventh Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2009

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Today it was reported that President Obama will direct the Federal Government to purchase the Thomson Correctional Center, a state maximum-security prison in Thomson, Illinois for the purpose of transferring terrorists detained at the United States Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the United States.

In light of the significant homeland security implications of this decision, we are writing to urge you to schedule an immediate classified briefing for Members of the Committee on Homeland Security with senior officials from the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, and Defense. We also urge you to schedule a full Committee hearing with witnesses from these Departments prior to Congress adjourning this month.

The homeland security implications of this decision include the direct role of the Department of Homeland Security, the heightened security risks to the surrounding community, and the increased threat of domestic radicalization within the Thomson facility. In her December 2<sup>nd</sup> speech in New York City, Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano stated, "home-based terrorism is here," and today the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment held a hearing on the radicalization of individuals in the United States – including in our prisons.

Also today, the Administration formally notified Illinois Governor Pat Quinn of the transfer of detainees to the Thomson Correctional Center. The Administration's letter – co-signed by Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano – stated that "Federal departments and agencies, including the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, and Defense, will work closely with state and local law enforcement authorities to identify and mitigate any risks, including sharing information through the state's 'fusion center' and working with the Federal Joint Terrorism Task Force." This clear and integral role for the Department of Homeland Security demands immediate oversight action by the Committee to allow its Members to obtain critical information on the Administration's plans and related security implications.

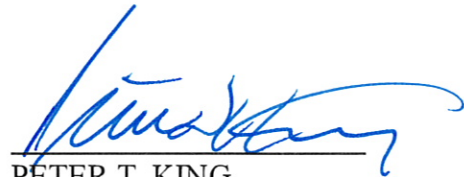
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In your letter of October 29, 2009, to Representative Dent responding to his request for a Committee Member site visit to Guantanamo, you noted that "Congress and the Administration have taken significant steps to advance President Obama's executive orders to proficiently close the Guantanamo Detention Facilities and review the cases of detainees for transfer or prosecution." You also stated that the "results of these efforts merit the Committee's attention."

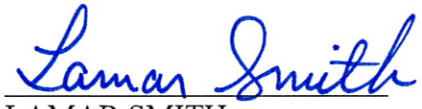
The time for the Committee's attention is now.

We look forward to working with you in a bipartisan manner to hold a classified Member briefing and hearing *prior to* adjournment of the First Session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress to ensure all Committee Members have the information they need to exercise effective oversight over the homeland security implications of transferring Guantanamo detainees to our country.

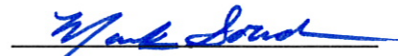
Sincerely,



PETER T. KING  
Ranking Member



LAMAR SMITH  
Member of Congress



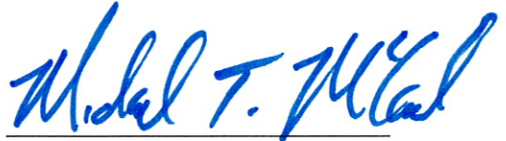
MARK E. SOUDER  
Member of Congress



DANIEL E. LUNGREN  
Member of Congress



MIKE ROGERS  
Member of Congress



MICHAEL T. MCCAUL  
Member of Congress



CHARLES W. DENT  
Member of Congress



GUS M. BILIRAKIS  
Member of Congress

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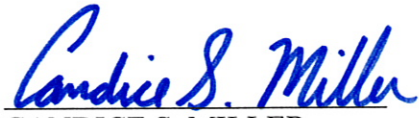
PAUL C. BROUN  
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PETE OLSON  
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STEVE AUSTRIA  
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CANDICE S. MILLER  
Member of Congress



ANH "JOSEPH" CAO  
Member of Congress